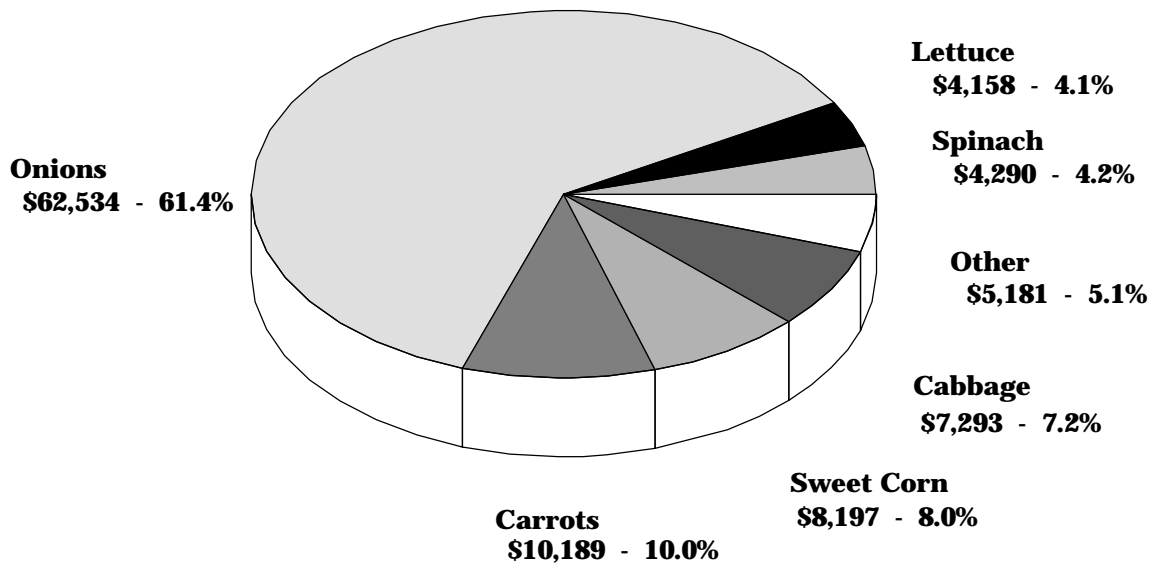


Colorado Vegetable Crops - 1996

Value of Production & % of Total

(Value in \$1,000)



VEGETABLE CROPS - 1996

Vegetable producers in Colorado harvested 10.0 million cwt of fresh market and processing crops during 1996 which had a total value of \$101.8 million, just slightly below the \$102.2 million received for the 10.6 million cwt of vegetables produced in 1995. Acreage was higher than the previous year for cabbage, cantaloupe, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Acreage and production estimates are prepared for only nine vegetable crops. Numerous other vegetable crops are produced in the state but are not surveyed for acreage and production data.

Production of **dry storage onions** in 1996 totaled 5.53 million cwt, down 10 percent from the previous year. The harvested area declined 4 percent to 17,000 acres and the average yield of 325 cwt per acre was 6 percent below the 1995 average. The quantity of onions expected to be marketed had an estimated value of \$62.5 million compared with \$54.3 million from the 1995 crop. Onions represented 55 percent of the total production and 61 percent of the total value from the nine crops.

Carrot production was the second leading vegetable crop in terms of both production and value. Production declined 16 percent from the previous year, to 1.4 million cwt, wholly the result of lower yields. The total value of the 1996 crop, at \$10.2 million, was 56 percent below a year earlier as prices were down sharply from the previous year. Carrots represented 10 percent of the total value and 14 percent of the total production.

Sweet corn was the third leading vegetable crop, accounting for 8 percent of the total value and 9 percent of the total production. Harvested acreage was up 20 percent, per acre yields were up 10 percent, and prices were up 7 percent.

Cabbage ranked fourth in both production and value. Value of production, at \$7.3 million, was more than double a year earlier as a result of higher production and prices. **Spinach** ranked fifth in terms of value and seventh in production. Compared with a year earlier, spinach production was down 26 percent to 150,000 cwt and value was down 15 percent to \$4,290 million.

Lettuce was the sixth highest value vegetable crop produced in the state and the fifth largest in production. Production was down 31 percent from a year earlier to 594,000 cwt and value was down 37 percent to \$4.16 million. **Cantaloupe** production totaled 340,000 cwt from 1,700 acres harvested and had a total value of \$3,672,000. **Cucumbers for pickles** production in 1996 was 7,200 tons, down 3 percent from 1995. Value of the 1996 crop, at \$1.08 million, was 13 percent above the previous year.

Processing tomatoes had a value of \$429,000 in 1996. This was more than double the \$202,000 crop produced in 1995. Production was also more than twice as high as the 1995 crop, largely the result of much higher yields.